

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COLOMB 00607 171229Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 /036 W  
-----171311Z 077383 /43  
R 171104Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6738

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 0607

E.O. 11652:GDS  
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, CE  
SUBJECT: PROPOSED SUSPENSION OF AAFLI PROGRAM IN SRI LANKA

REF: COLOMBO 0558

1. VISITING AAFLI REP. CALLED ON AMBASSADOR FEB. 17 TO DISCUSS EMBASSY'S PROPOSAL TO SUSPEND AAFLI PROGRAM UNTIL AFTER ELECTIONS. AMBASSADOR STRESSED TO GARZA EMBASSY'S DESIRE TO PROTECT AAFLI'S LONG-TERM INTEREST AS WELL AS BROADER U.S. INTEREST. HE EXPLAINED AT SOME LENGTH RATIONALE FOR EMBASSY POSITION, AT END OF WHICH GARZA IMPLIED HE WAS MORE SYMPATHETIC TO OUR RECOMMENDATION THAN HE HAD BEEN UPON HEARING IT OVER THE TELEPHONE FROM PALADINO.

2. GARZA VOLUNTEERED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING ON AAFLI AGENDA HERE THAT HAD TO BE DONE WITHIN NEXT FOUR TO FIVE MONTHS, ALTHOUGH TWO SEMINARS HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR MAY. ONE OF THOSE SEMINARS WAS ALREADY PROBABLY GOING TO BE SCRAPPED AND THE OTHER, HE SUGGESTED, WAS MARGINAL. THUS, HIS ATTITUDE LED US TO INFER THAT, UPON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 28 HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT EMBASSY SUGGESTION BE HEDED. HOWEVER, HE MADE NO COMMITMENT AND STRESSED THAT FINAL DECISION WAS PREROGATIVE OF AAFLI WASHINGTON.

3. LIST OF SPEAKERS AT THIS WEEK'S AAFLI SEMINAR, AS PRINTED IN  
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FEBRUARY 17 NEWSPAPER, INCLUDED LALITH ATHULATHMUDALI, MEMBER OF OPPOSITION  
UNITED NATIONAL PARTY SHADOW CABINET.  
REED

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009